

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A mechanical seal for sealing between a rotatable shaft and a stationary housing, seal comprising an axially fixed, rotary seal face member for attachment to the shaft for rotation therewith and providing two axially separated and oppositely facing seal faces, first and second axially floating, stationary seal face members arranged on axially opposite sides of said rotary seal face member and each having a seal face for effecting sliding contact with a respective seal face of the rotary seal face member, and means for magnetically biasing said floating seal face members towards said rotary seal face member, said axially floating seal face members and said biasing means being rotationally fixed relative to each other and said axially fixed seal face member being free to rotate relative to said axially floating seal face members, wherein said magnetically biasing means comprises one or more magnets each of which is positioned so as to attract both said axially floating stationary seal face members and so as to urge said stationary seal face members towards said rotary seal face member.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) A mechanical seal according to claim 1 wherein said biasing means is mounted radially outwards of said seal face member.

6. (Previously Presented) A mechanical seal according to claim 1 wherein the seal includes a magnetically insulating member located between said biasing means and said axially fixed seal face member.
7. (Previously Presented) A mechanical seal according to claim 1 wherein the biasing means comprises two or more magnets circumferentially separated by a spacing element.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Presented) A mechanical seal according to claim 1 wherein said biasing means seal comprises a magnet, one end of which attracts said first axially floating seal face member and the other end of which attracts said second axially floating seal face member.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Previously Presented) A mechanical seal according to claim 1 wherein said seal includes an outer housing which contains at least one magnet secured therein.
12. (Original) A mechanical seal according to claim 11 wherein the magnet is axially flush with a shoulder on the outer housing.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A mechanical seal according to claim 1 wherein said housing is provided with a radially extending hole connecting the outermost and innermost surfaces of the housing.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (Canceled)
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32. (Canceled)

- 33. (Canceled)
- 34. (Canceled)
- 35. (Canceled)
- 36. (Canceled)
- 37. (Previously Presented) A bearing protector in the form of a mechanical seal as claimed in claim 1.
- 38. (New) A mechanical seal according to claim 1, wherein each magnet is located radially outwards of said stationary seal face members.